SECRET FREEDOM
PART 4 OF 4
ISSUE 44
SEGA
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Welcome to the planet Mobius -- a world beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Where Silver the Hedgehog and the Secret Freedom Fighters race against time to save the unwitting citizens of New Mobotropolis from evil!

SONIC UNIVERSE™

PREVIOUSLY...

The city of New Mobotropolis is under SIEGE!

Sonic the Hedgehog's home city continues to reel following the devastating attacks of Dr. Eggman. These attacks have lead to the destruction of the city's heroes, the Freedom Fighters.

The city has also been attacked from within, as the evil Wizard Ixis Naugus and his apprentice Geoffrey St. John have usurped the crown of Acorn, using their dark magic to turn public opinion in their favor. But in the shadows a new team of Secret Freedom Fighters have formed to put an end to Naugus's rule!

After battling both Geoffrey and Naugus, the Secret Freedom Fighters found themselves evenly matched with these forces of evil. Evenly matched, that is, until Silver was able to convince team leader Elias Acorn that they might be able to reason with Geoffrey St. John, instead of battling him head on.

Silver's gamble paid off, and Geoffrey revealed to our heroes the true, terrifying depths of Naugus's plan -- to take control of the Council of Acorns' minds as they ratify the Kingdom's new constitution! If Naugus was able to control the law of the land, he would be unstoppable.

The Secret Freedom Fighters are NOT about to let that happen...

WHO'S WHO

SILVER THE HEDGEHOG
TIME TRAVELER --CALL SIGN "ACE"

ELIAS ACORN
DEPOSED KING --CALL SIGN "KING"

KING NAUGUS
CONNIVING IXIS WIZARD

GEOFFREY ST. JOHN
TRAITOR AND IXIS APPRENTICE

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UNSUNG HEROES PART FOUR: FIGHT the POWER!

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VICTOR GORELICK : Editor-in-Chief / MIKE PELLERITO : President / Thanks to ANTHONY GACCIONE & CINDY CHAU at Sega Licensing

MEANWHILE, DIRECTLY ABOVE-- THE ROYAL MILITARY HQ...

NO LUCK, CHARLES?
I'M AFRAID NOT, ROSE-MARY.
THE LOCK'S BUSTED.

OF COURSE, IF NICOLE WERE STILL HERE, WE WOULDN'T HAVE THIS PROBLEM!
DON'T GET YOUR MUSTACHE IN A KNOT, CHUCK. THE VOTE TO EXILE WAS UNANIMOUS.
EVEN IF MOST OF US DIDN'T LIKE IT...

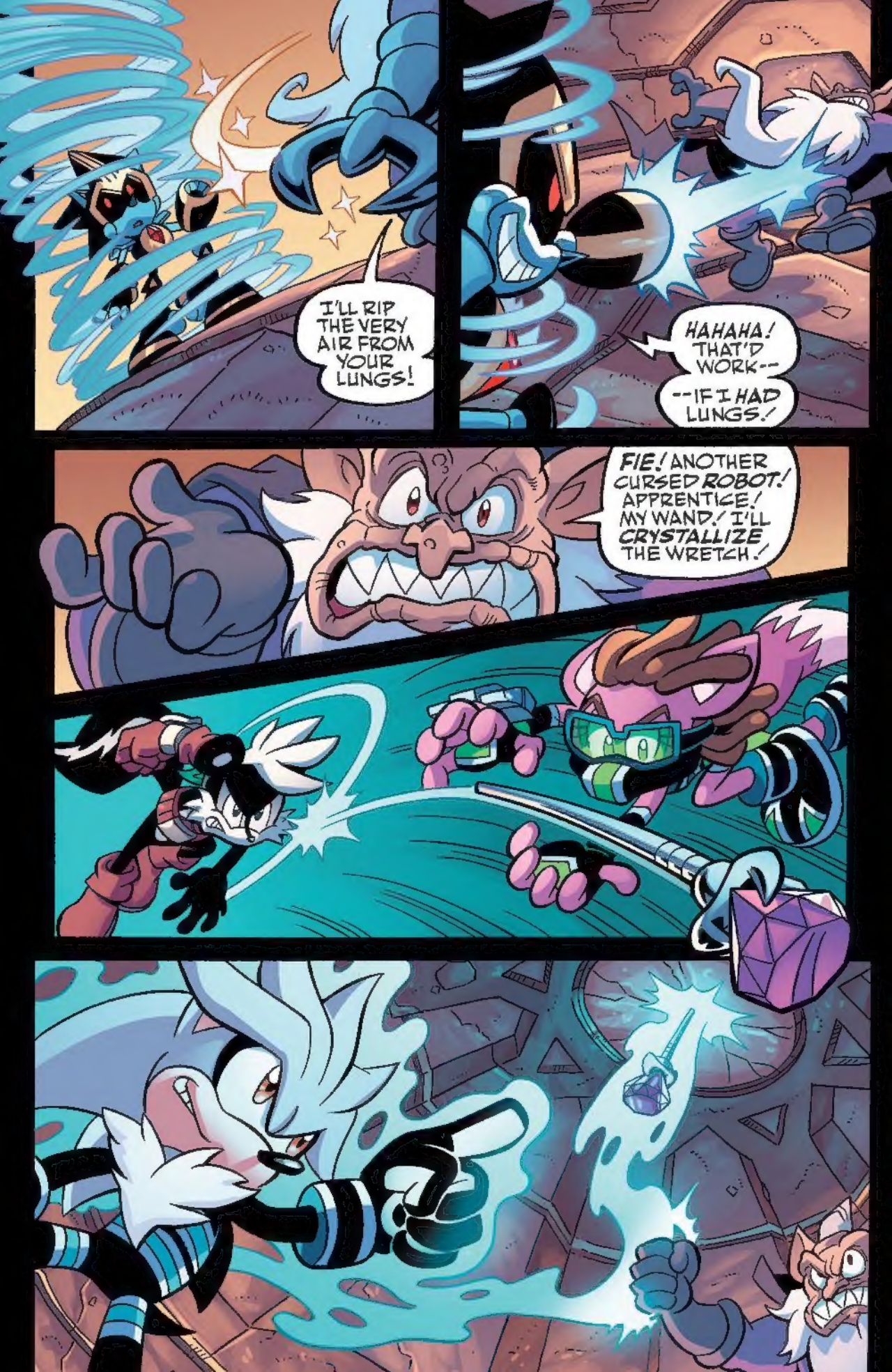
WHAT'S WRONG, COUNCILOR DYLAN?
heh heh-- ah, WELL... IT SEEMS WE ARE LOCKED OUT OF THE BUILDING.

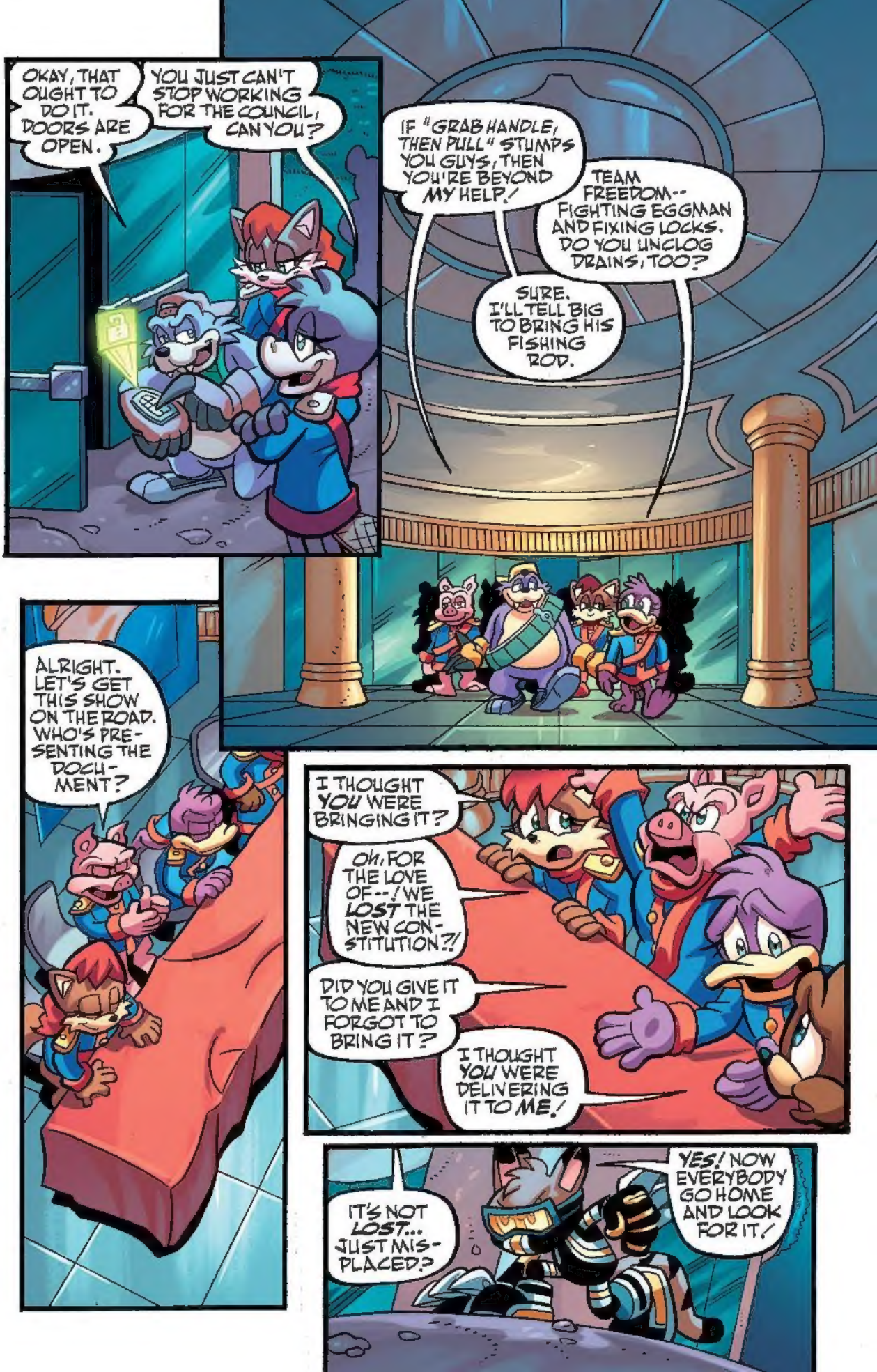
WE CAN'T REALLY RATIFY THE NEW CONSTITUTION IF WE CAN'T GET INSIDE, Y'KNOW?
WHICH KEEPS YOU OUT OF HARM'S WAY. C'MON, LARRY, KEEP WORKING YOUR BAD LUCK IN THEIR FAVOR... OR MINE. OR ...GAH.!
LARRY LYNX
CALL SIGN: JOKER
SUPER-JINX

"THE REST OF THE TEAM BETTER KICK NAUGUS'S BUTT, THOUGH. THERE'S NO TELLING WHEN MY LUCK WILL CHANGE!"
YOU'RE CERTAIN YOU FOUND NOTHING OF THE FOOLS WHO TRIED TO SPY ON ME?*
YES, SIR! CERTAIN!
*SU #42-43!
KEEP A WEATHER EYE ON THE DOOR, THEN. THIS INCANTATION IS TOO COMPLEX AND TAXING TO REPEAT. I CANNOT BE INTERRUPTED AT THIS DELICATE--
YOU WERE SAYING?

HISSSS!!
YOU'LL PAY FOR YOUR INTERFERENCE!
SHARD - CALL SIGN: JACK -- REFORMED METAL SONIC
SILVER - CALL SIGN: ACE -- TELEKINETIC
BIG TALK--
--FOR A GUY WHO'S RETREATING!
APPRENTICE! MY WAND-- NOW!
LITTLE BUSY AT THE MOMENT!
LEETA - CALL SIGN: QUEEN OF DIAMONDS WOLF PACK TWIN.
LYCO - CALL SIGN: QUEEN OF HEARTS YOU'RE NOT SEEING DOUBLE
DEET!
DEET!
DEET!
I DON'T KNOW WHERE THE DIRECTOR GOT ALL OF THESE EXPLOSIVES, BUT RIGHT NOW, I DON'T CARE!
ELIAS - CALL SIGN: KING DETHRONED KING ACORN

I DO NOT NEED THE CHAOS EMERALD TO DEFEAT YOU! MY ELEMENTAL SORCERY IS UNSURPASSED!
MAN, ARE YOU IN FOR A RUDE AWAKENING!
NICE DISTRACTION, ACE!


I'LL RIP THE VERY AIR FROM YOUR LUNGS!
HAHAHA! THAT'D WORK--
--IF I HAD LUNGS!
FIE! ANOTHER CURSED ROBOT! APPRENTICE! MY WAND! I'LL CRYSTALLIZE THE WRETCH!

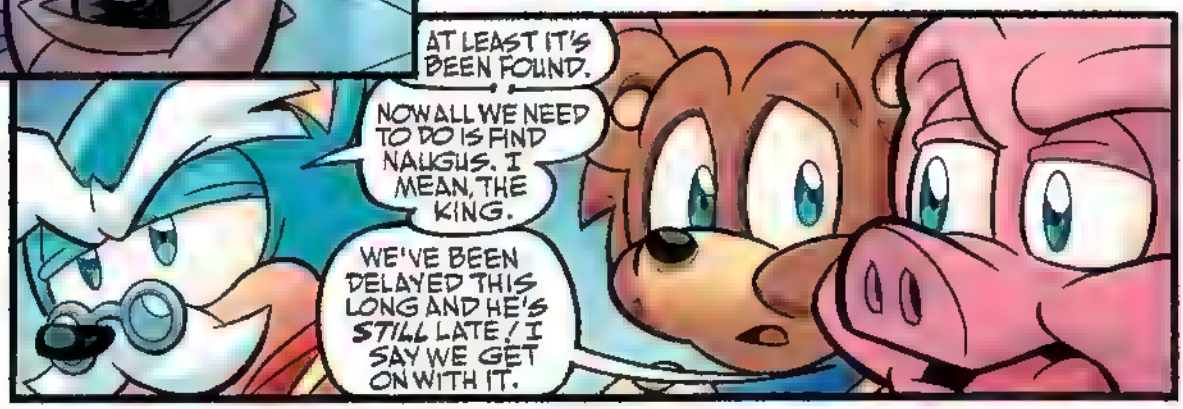

OKAY, THAT OUGHT TO DO IT. DOORS ARE OPEN.
YOU JUST CAN'T STOP WORKING FOR THE COUNCIL, CAN YOU?
IF "GRAB HANDLE, THEN PULL" STUMPS YOU GUYS, THEN YOU'RE BEYOND MY HELP!
TEAM FREEDOM-- FIGHTING EGGMAN AND FIXING LOCKS. DO YOU UNCLOG DRAINS, TOO?
SURE. I'LL TELL BIG TO BRING HIS FISHING ROD.
ALRIGHT. LET'S GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD. WHO'S PRESENTING THE DOCUMENT?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE BRINGING IT?
OH, FOR THE LOVE OF--! WE LOST THE NEW CONSTITUTION?!
DID YOU GIVE IT TO ME AND I FORGOT TO BRING IT?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE DELIVERING IT TO ME!
IT'S NOT LOST... JUST MISPLACED?
YES! NOW EVERYBODY GO HOME AND LOOK FOR IT!

GOTTA SAY, LUV, YOU'VE GOT GREAT FORM. THE "PERFECT DOUBLE" THING IS REALLY DISORIENTING!
BUT I KNOW WHEN I'M BEING DISTRACTED!
KING!
HEADS UP!!

AGENT "KING," huh? GOING FOR "SO OBVIOUS IT'S OVER-LOOKED?"
THERE WAS A TIME I HAD YOU WRAPPED AROUND MY LITTLE FINGER. POOR, NAIVE LITTLE PRINCE!
I'VE COME A LONG WAY SINCE THEN.
YEAH. YOU HAVE.
ALRIGHT, MYSTERIOUS AGENTS -- ROUND TWO?
NO MORE WARNING SHOTS.

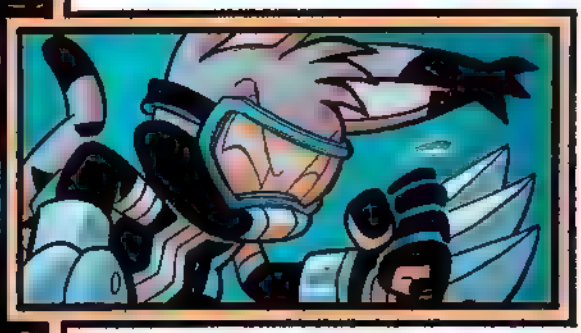
FOUND IT!
IT HAD FALLEN BEHIND YOUR WRITING DESK, PENELOPE!

WELL, THAT'S EMBARRASSING. THANK YOU, CREAM AND CHEESE, FOR VOLUNTEERING TO HELP LOOK FOR IT!
WE'RE ON TEAM FREEDOM-- HELPING PEOPLE IS WHAT WE DO. THE ENVELOPE IS ADDRESSED TO MRS. PROWER, THOUGH.
OH! HAHA! AHH... I MUST'VE LEFT IT AT YOUR HOUSE WHEN WE HAD DINNER THE OTHER NIGHT.
MY APOLOGIES.


AT LEAST IT'S BEEN FOUND.
NOW ALL WE NEED TO DO IS FIND NAUGUS. I MEAN, THE KING.
WE'VE BEEN DELAYED THIS LONG AND HE'S STILL LATE! I SAY WE GET ON WITH IT.

BUT POLICY DICTATES WE HAVE A MAJORITY OF THE COUNCIL AND THE KING...
I KNOW THE POLICY!
...AND YOU ALWAYS COMPLAIN WHEN SONIC OR SOMEBODY DOESN'T FOLLOW THE--
ALRIGHT! ALRIGHT! CAN WE HAVE A QUICK VOTE TO DECIDE...

BWOOOP!
DID WE JUST BLOW A FUSE?
OH, FOR PITY'S SAKE!!



IS THAT ALL YOU'VE GOT?!
AUGH!!
HAHA HAHA! I FOUGHT AN ENERJAK!* YOUR TRICKS ARE NOTHING COMPARED TO HIS POWER!
*SILVER ARC -- SU # 25-28
HE COULD SHOOT VAPORIZING LASER BEAMS AND MOVE CONTINENTS. WHAT DO YOU GOT?
SAY...
HSSSS!
COULD HE CONVERT THE ELEMENTS WITH A THOUGHT?
...COMBUST THE VERY AIR AROUND YOU?
AHH!!

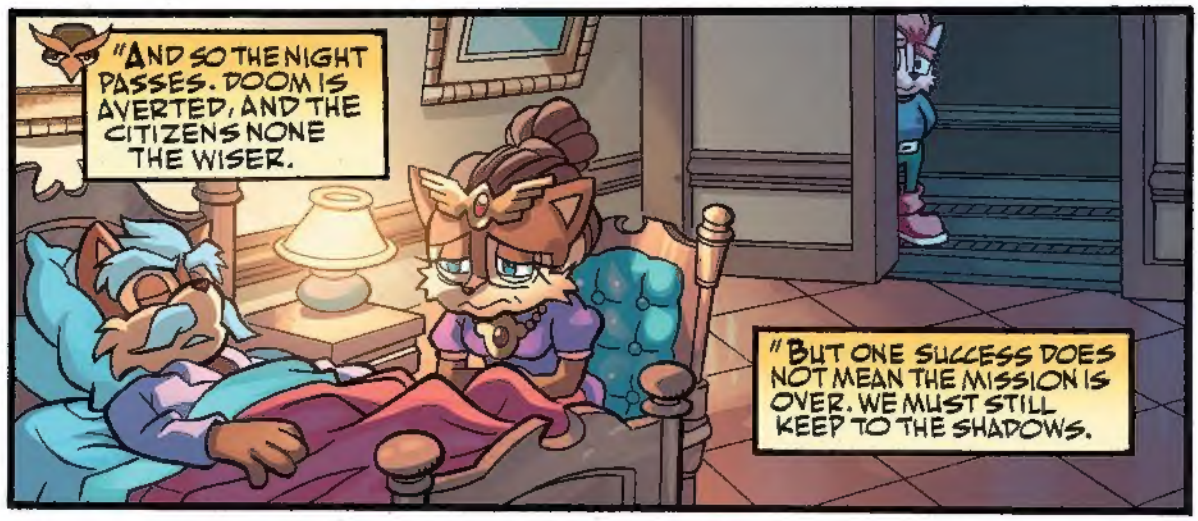
THIS IS RIDICULOUS. WE'VE BEEN HAMMERING ON HIM AND HE'S STILL KEEPING US AT BAY! IT'S TAKING TOO LONG TO STOP HIM...
HMM...
HEY, KING! I'M BREAKING RANKS AND MAKING AN EXECUTIVE DECISION.
NO!
I CAN STILL FINISH IT! I CAN STILL TAKE CONTROL!
NO--
--YOU CAN'T!

NICE WORK, AGENTS!
YOU SHOULD HAVE DONE THAT FROM THE START.
YOU DON'T GET TO JUDGE US. LET'S WRAP THIS UP, KING!
RIGHT. JACK! GRAB THE QUEENS! WE'RE PULLING OUT!
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM

RUMBLE
NO...ALL MY CAREFUL PLANNING... VALE'S BONES WASTED...
APPRENTICE! HELP ME!!
ARGH!

NO...
NO ESCAPE!!
AHH!!
CLANG
Ohhh, NO. NO-NOPE-NUH-UH! NO MORE BEING BURIED ALIVE! ACE, GRAB THE OTHERS! I'M MAKING US AN EXIT, AND IT'S GONNA GET LOUD!
RIGHT BEHIND YOU!
KRAASH
FREEDOM! FRESH AIR!
MAKES ME WISH I HAD TO BREATHE, SO I COULD ENJOY IT!

SAVE THE CELEBRATING FOR LATER./ LET'S GET BACK TO BASE UNNOTICED FIRST./
AYE-AYE, CAP'N!
TRAITOR! LEFT ME! PUNISH...
NGH! NO, SIR! I WENT TO CHASE DOWN THOSE ENEMY AGENTS!
COUNCIL... NO CONTROL... WILL HAVE FELT TREMORS! MUST ATTACK FIRST...
OR-- RRGH! YOU PLAY FOR SYMPATHY./
SAY YOU WERE INVESTIGATING INSTABILITY OF THE GROUND AND WERE CAUGHT IN A CAVE-IN. YOU SAVED THE CITY FROM COLLAPSE./
HRK! GET IT?
FWASH
YES...YES, THAT WILL DO. GOOD THINKING, APPRENTICE.
OF COURSE.
I LIVE TO SERVE.


"AND SO THE NIGHT PASSES. DOOM IS AVERTED, AND THE CITIZENS NONE THE WISER.
"BUT ONE SUCCESS DOES NOT MEAN THE MISSION IS OVER. WE MUST STILL KEEP TO THE SHADOWS.

"WE CANNOT SHARE OUR VICTORY WITH OUR FRIENDS. WE CANNOT COMFORT OUR LOVED ONES. WE CANNOT EXIST IN MORE THAN RUMOR AND SECOND-GLANCES.

"THIS IS OUR SACRIFICE. TO PROTECT EVERYTHING WE HOLD DEAR...

"...WE MUST GIVE UP WHAT WE WANT MOST."

SECRET HQ
HARVEY WHO DIRECTOR OF THE SECRET FREEDOM FIGHTERS
THESE ARE THE HARD LESSONS TO LEARN, BUT YOU AND THE REST OF THE TEAM PERFORMED ADMIRABLY.
THANK YOU, SIR!
NOW THEN-- I DIDN'T FORGET OUR BARGAIN. I'VE BEEN INVESTIGATING THE POTENTIAL TRAITOR AMONG THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS THAT YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR.
GREAT! HAVE YOU FOUND WHAT I WAS MISSING?
ANTOINE'S JOURNAL PRIVATE! Do not read. That means you Sonic!
ANTOINE'S JOURNAL PRIVATE! Do not read. That means you Sonic!
I HAVE COMPARED THE ENTRIES OF ANTOINE D'COOLETTE'S DIARY-- BOTH FROM THE PRESENT AND THE ONE YOU RECOVERED FROM YOUR TIME. I TOOK INTO ACCOUNT EVERYTHING YOU TOLD ME AND APPLIED IT TO ALL THE PROFILES I HAVE ON FILE.
WAS IT OBVIOUS?
NOT IMMEDIATELY. TIME HAS A WAY OF TWISTING THE FACTS, OBSCURING THE EVIDENCE.
BUT GIVEN THE SUM OF IT ALL, I'M CONFIDENT I'VE DISCOVERED YOUR "TRAITOR".
GREAT! SO WHO IS IT?!
SEE FOR YOURSELF.
OF THE ORIGINAL FOUNDING FREEDOM FIGHTERS, WE CAN ELIMINATE THESE THREE.

WHAT?!
YOU'RE SURE?! THIS IS THE TRAITOR?!
YES.
AND I CAN TELL YOU WHY.
SILVER'S HUNT FOR "THE TRAITOR" ENDS IN SONIC The HEDGEHOG #247! NEXT ISSUE COME ON BACK FOR A SPECIAL ONE-SHOT ADAPTATION STORY OF SONIC ALL-STARS RACING TRANSFORMED! THEN BE BACK AFTER THAT WHEN WE FIND THE CHAOTIX ARE HOT ON THE TRAIL OF MIGHTY AND RAY IN THE ALL NEW "CHAOTIX QUEST!" AND DON'T MISS OUT ON THE SUPER SPECIAL MAGAZINE AND THE SONIC GRAPHIC NOVEL LIBRARY!